

The text is very full with extended quotations from various writers on the birds of the region and there are 116 text figures of heads, feet, wings, etc., from line drawings by Bruce Horsfall.—J. A. G. R.

**Nicoll's 'Handlist of the Birds of Egypt.'**<sup>1</sup>—This well prepared work is an annotated list of 436 species of birds occurring in Egypt north of Wadi Halfa, the northernmost town of the Sudan. It is based upon Mr. Nicoll's thirteen years' experience in studying the birds of the country and upon a collection of about 4000 specimens obtained during that time and now deposited in the Zoological Museum at Giza.

The English and scientific name of each species is given, the latter being the "most suitable and easily understood" of the several that may be current. Then follows a statement of the relative abundance and time of occurrence, and a short concise description. There is also a reference to Shelley's 'Birds of Egypt' if the species is mentioned in that work, though we notice that Mr. Nicoll has added quite a number not found by that author. A few species entered in previous lists but not verified he has wisely omitted, quoting in this connection the apt saying that "What's hit is history; what's missed is mystery." An Appendix gives such Arabic names as have been applied to the Egyptian birds. The illustrations consist of 31 plates, most of them half-tones of skins of Chats and Warblers while the others are rather crudely tinted figures of a number of species. The book is a publication of the Ministry of Public Works issued by the Government Press at Cairo to meet a demand for information upon the identity of the native birds, which was especially urgent during the period of the war, when many visitors were in the country. Mr. Nicoll is to be congratulated upon an excellent piece of work both for the instruction of the public and for handy reference of the ornithologist who desires an up to date list of the birds of Egypt.—W. S.

**Sachtleben on Goldfinches.**<sup>2</sup>—This paper is an elaborate discussion of the geographic forms of the Black-headed Goldfinches of Europe and Africa. Eleven races are recognized by the author and long lists of specimens with measurements are presented, with a full discussion of synonymy and relationship.

Names are available for all of the forms recognized, though we notice that one of them, *Carduelis c. balcanica*, was named by the author in a previous paper in the 'Anzeiger Ornith. Gesellsch. Bayern' for February, 1919.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> Hand-List of the Birds of Egypt. By M. J. Nicoll, F. Z. S., M. B., O. U. Assistant Director, Zoological Service. Publication No. 29. Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, Egypt. Government Press, 1919, pp. i-xii, 1-119, pls. 1-31. Price: P. T. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Die geographischen Formen des schwarzkopfigen Distelfinken. Von Dr. H. Sachtleben. Arch. f. Naturg. 84 Jahrgang. February, 1920.